

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A model system for Hepatitis C virus infection in humans, comprising a non-human mammal, wherein the mammal has a normal immune system but has been rendered immunologically tolerant to human hepatocytes and subsequently transplanted with human hepatocytes and infected with Hepatitis C virus.

2. (Previously presented) The model system of claim 1, wherein the human hepatocytes are cells of the Huh7 cell line.

3. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a non-human mammal to receive a human hepatocyte transplant, comprising the steps of:

(i) administering to the mammal an effective amount of human hepatocytes, in a form selected from the group consisting of whole cells and a cell lysate, wherein the hepatocytes render the mammal immunologically tolerant to human hepatocytes; and

(ii) administering to the mammal an effective amount of an agent, wherein the agent is metabolized by hepatocytes to produce a cytotoxin.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the agent is retrorsine.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising, after step ii, the step of introducing human hepatocytes into the mammal, wherein the number of introduced hepatocytes is effective in colonizing the liver of the mammal.